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began to wash it. The printing appears to be literal and precise, but Mr. Teggart has not provided us with the illuminating notes that he might have drawn from his rich knowledge of California history.

F. L. P.

*Sir George Etienne Cartier, Bart.* His life and times. A political history of Canada from 1814 to 1873. By John Boyd. (Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, 1914. 439 p. \$5.00)

Sir George Cartier played for many years a leading part in Canadian public life. The great crux of Canadian politics is of course the relations between French and English. As the leader of a somewhat backward province, sympathizing fully with the prejudices of his countrymen, yet enlightened enough to desire a good understanding with the English, and to see that such dreams as that of "a French republic on the banks of the St. Lawrence" were impracticable, Cartier is an interesting figure. He it was who made possible the federation of the scattered Canadian provinces, by persuading the *habitant* that only so could absorption in the American union be prevented, and that such federation would mean the retention under imperial sanction of the special privileges of the French. His life-long friendship with Sir John MacDonald, the Upper Canadian leader, is one of the features of Canadian political history, and the two statesmen did much to extricate Canada from the quagmire of racial and religious bitterness into which she had been plunged in 1837. Cartier was a legist too, and it was by his endeavors that the admirable civil code of Quebec, practically as it exists today, was framed out of the welter of old French customs, edicts and ordinances of French *intendants* and councils, provincial laws, and what not, which had previously existed. Though no orator, he had the power of hitting out phrases which stick. When under the union act of 1841, the number of representatives from Upper and Lower Canada was by imperial statute made equal, for the purpose of partially disenfranchising the French majority, and when the increase of population in the upper province put the boot on the other foot, Cartier calmly told the convulsed house of commons that the excess of population in Upper Canada had no more right to representation than so many codfish in the bay of Gaspé. Similarly, when the charter for the Canadian Pacific railway went through, it was Cartier who leaped to his feet with the cry, "All aboard for the West."

Mr. Boyd's life of this interesting man is not wholly satisfactory. The subtitle of "A political history of Canada from 1814 to 1873" reveals one of its defects. The attempt to show Cartier as invariably the central figure at times falsifies the perspective, and at others produces the paradox that we lose him in long accounts of well-known events and tendencies, regarding which Mr. Boyd has nothing new to tell us. Cartier had

preserved his papers with great care, and the reminiscences which he left behind presumably written with the fearless candor which was a part of him, would have been interesting in the extreme, but since his death they seem to have disappeared, and far too much of Mr. Boyd's volume is taken up with long extracts from well-known secondary authorities. The book could with advantage have been shortened to three hundred pages. Another misfortune is that it was produced "in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of Sir George Etienne Cartier's birth," and as a *livre d'occasion*, produced in conjunction with a rather florid ceremony, its literary merit suffers. Long facsimile reproductions of letters to the author from Sir Robert Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and other great and good men, pictures of the house in which the book was completed, etc., pad out the already verbose volume.

Yet Mr. Boyd's book is not without value. By careful picking and choosing we can arrive at a lifelike picture of the vigorous, fearless personality of his hero: brusque, overbearing, willing to buy either an opponent or a constituent, if only so he could carry his point, but with a love for Canada which extended far beyond the bounds of his native province, and with a high belief in her destiny which did much to keep her sound in her hours of doubt and almost of despair.

W. L. GRANT

*The tercentenary history of Canada from Champlain to Laurier, MDCVIII-MCMVII.* By Frank Basil Tracy. Revised to the present time by Britton B. Cooke. In three volumes. (New York and Toronto: P. F. Collier and Son, 1913. 1180 p. \$2.25)

This book is laid out by an earnest student who has had a very wide reading and who possesses a great power of assimilation combined with the faculty of analysis, for he is enabled to embody in eleven hundred and fifty small pages all that is necessary to know of the numerous events embracing three centuries, without running, as so many authors do, into particular topics which may suit his own fancy, to the detriment of other situations of equal importance. Thus the narrative is well balanced and every part of it is proportioned to the merit of each subject.

I like an exposition of this kind, so well distributed in short chapters and sorted chronologically. The reader is not suddenly carried to another period of time nearer to him, and he advances slowly, with his face looking backward, so to say, from the point of departure, after the fashion of a land surveyor who traces a straight line as he proceeds on the ground and knowing exactly where he is to stop. This, after all, is what former generations have done and also what we are doing every day.

Having ascertained, as above, the convenience of this arrangement, I